



Associated Press Wirephoto

DISCUSS SHELTERS—Gov. Rockefeller, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff (center) and publisher Henry R. Luce yesterday at Albany prior to meeting of State Defense Council to consider the Governor's fallout shelter program.

Fallout Shelters Indorsed By State Defense Council

CPYRGHT

By Charles N. Quinn

ALBANY, Feb. 23.—The State Defense Council today indorsed an administration committee report recommending legislation to require anti-radiation fallout shelters in most buildings in the state by July 1, 1963.

However, Gov. Rockefeller still declined to say whether he would submit any legislation with a mandatory provision at the current session of the State Legislature.

And the seven Republican and Democratic legislative leaders, who are members of the council, refrained from signing the council report, because they said their signatures might be interpreted as committing their colleagues to support it.

Enactment Seen Doubtful

Responsible Republican legislators have predicted a mandatory program would not pass this year. One said today the proposal "doesn't have a prayer" and another said enactment at the current session "is in grave doubt."

Gov. Rockefeller, conceding almost insurmountable odds against enactment of a mandatory program this year, never-

theless said such protection was "essential." In a speech tonight at the annual Legislative Dinner of the American Legion, he said:

"Why do I persist in following the admittedly difficult and initially unpopular course of vigorously advocating fallout shelter protection for the entire population of New York State? Because I am absolutely convinced that such protection is essential in this dangerous world, essential to saving peace, or if that great effort should fail, essential to saving millions of lives."

Fear Without Hope

Gov. Rockefeller said America's basic problem was that it had been "harboring a subconscious fear without any hope—a fear that protection was unobtainable." He said that this country had lived for years "with a profound contradiction," adding:

"We have lived on the unprovable assumption that nuclear war would never be visited upon us—even as we have based our national strategy and a multi-billion-dollar defense budget on the premise that nuclear war can happen."

To substantiate his argument, the Governor made public a telegram from Leo A. Hoegh, and Defense Mobilization, which said his proposed legislation

"constitutes a giant step toward implementation of the national shelter policy announced by the Federal government."

Explain Position

Senate Majority Leader Walter J. Mahoney and Assembly Speaker Joseph F. Carlino explained their position in a joint statement issued after the meeting. It said, in part:

"No one disputes the desirability of a shelter program to guard against the very serious danger of radioactive fallout. Questions have been raised, however, about the readiness of the public to accept a mandatory program at this time and about the role the Federal government should play in this area."

In essence, the McHugh report calls for fallout shelters in most existing private buildings in the state by July 1, 1963, and in new structures started after Jan. 1, 1963. It would require a minimum of two weeks of survival supplies for all 13,000,000 residents. It would provide some tax relief and a state program of low-interest loans to assist those financially unable to build a shelter.

Called 'Good Meeting'

After the session of the twenty-three-member council which lasted more than two and one-half hours, Gov. Rockefeller, who is combatting a cold, characterized it as "a very, very good meeting."

Gov. Rockefeller said the program would be discussed tomorrow at 3:00 p. m. for at least 200 Republican and Democratic

members at a conference in the second floor of the executive chambers.

Of the twenty-three members, five were absent, three of whom communicated their approval of the so-called McHugh report based on the findings of a study committee headed by Commerce Commissioner Keith S. McHugh. Eleven others voted for the council resolution, although some expressed sentiment that the program was optimistic and needed considerable selling to make it work.

Puts Cost at \$60

The McHugh report says such shelters could be built for as little as \$60 to \$70 for two persons in a build-it-yourself basis to \$225 for five or six when built by a contractor. The report was less precise in discussing cost of shelters in large, multi-floor apartments and business dwellings although it stated many of these buildings already afforded considerable protection in basements and interior rooms.

The council received oral re-

ports of the situation by Dr. Herbert Scoville, assistant director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Brig. Gen. John W. White, of the Defense Department, as well as by Mr. McHugh.

Urges Informing Citizens

Besides indorsing the McHugh report, the council also urged that the state continue "with maximum effort to bring to the awareness of the people of this state not only the nature of the fallout hazard but, equally important, the very feasible construction steps which will enable our people successfully to meet and survive fallout."

Besides Sen. Mahoney and Speaker Carlino, the leaders who abstained from voting included the temporary president of the Senate, Joseph Zarzetti; the chairman of the State Finance Committee, Austin W. Erwin; the Majority Leader of the Assembly, Charles A. Schoenbeck Jr.; the Minority Leader of the Assembly, Anthony J. Travia, and the chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, William H. McKensie.